

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE****METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING DATA IN A DISTRIBUTED  
BUFFER SYSTEM**

A method, apparatus, and computer implemented

5 instructions for managing a plurality of caches of data, wherein the data processing system includes a plurality of independent computers. In response to initiating a read operation to read data on a data block, an indication is posted on a directory of data blocks

10 identifying the computer that now holds a copy of that block and a location in the memory of that computer where a flag associated with that block is held. Then in response to initiating a write operation on that data block, messages are sent to all the computers holding

15 that block which resets the said flag, thus informing each computer that the data in that block is no longer valid. These messages are sent using means that perform that flag reset without, in the preferred embodiment, any overhead of interruption of processing on the computers

20 where the flags reside.

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